

the qibla towards which you used to face, only in order to know those who would follow the Messenger from those who would turn on their heels», that this could be a cause of some believers leaving the faith, so He refuted this misguided notion by saying: «Allah will never let your faith go to waste» by decreeing this test or others. That also includes those of the believers who died before the qibla was changed; Allah will not let their faith go to waste, because they obeyed the command of Allah and obeyed His Messenger (ﷺ) at that time. Obedience to Allah means following His command at all times, in the manner appropriate at a particular time. This verse is proof for the view of ahl as-Sunnah wal-jamâ'ah that faith includes physical deeds.

«for Allah is to all people Most Compassionate, Most Merciful» that is, He is very merciful towards them. Because of His compassion and mercy towards them, He completes His blessing that He bestowed on them in the first place, makes them distinct from those who paid lip service to faith only, without really believing in their hearts, tests them in such a way that He increases their faith and raises their status thereby, and instructs them to face towards the direction of the noblest and greatest House.



﴿قَدْ رَأَى ثَقَلُوبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي السَّمَاءِ فَلَنُوَلِّيَنَّكَ قِبْلَةً تَرْضَاهَا فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ فَوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ لَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِفَعِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾ (سورة البقرة: ١٤٤)

(١٤٤)

- 2:144. We see the turning of your face [for guidance] towards heaven; now We will turn you to a qibla that will please you. So turn your face in the direction of the Sacred Mosque; wherever you